

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

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R 272250Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3292

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS MEXICO 2628

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, EGEN, XM US

SUBJ: SELA SECRETARY GENERAL REPLIES TO ROGERS

REF: MEXICO 2561

1. DURING A PRESS CONFERENCE ON FEB 26, JAIME MONCAYO, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE SISTEMA ECONOMICO LATINOAMERICANO (SELA) WHO IS IN MEXICO FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND OTHER GOM OFFICIALS, ANNOUNCED THAT SELA IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE US. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS APPARENTLY MADE IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION REFERRING TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGER'S REMARKS ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH SELA (SEE REFTEL). MONCAYO POINTED OUT THAT ROGERS' REMARKS "ARE ONLY A STATEMENT BY A NORTH AMERICAN OFFICIAL" AND SAID SELA WOULD STUDY THE MATTER IF THE US MAKES A CONCRETE PROPOSAL. HE ADDED, "IT IS NOT OUR (I.E., SELA'S) DESIRE TO HAVE A CONFRONTATION WITH ANY COUNTRY. WE ARE OPEN TO NEGOTIATE, BUT UNDER CONDITIONS OF EQUALITY, (AND) EQUITY."

2. LATER MONCAYO SAID THAT LA NATIONS MUST TAKE COMMON
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POSITIONS OF NECESSITY AND TO DEFEND THEIR NATIONAL

INTERESTS. IN AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO BRAZIL, HE
ADDED THAT NO NATION IN LA COULD COME OUT THE WINNER
IN A BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US.

3. IN ADDITION, MONCAYO ANNOUNCED THAT THE AGENDA FOR
THE FORTHCOMING SELA MEETING IN CARACAS IN APRIL OR
MAY WILL INCLUDE: AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION, NUTRITION
AND THE MARKETING OF FOOD PRODUCTS, THE PRODUCTION OF
FERTILIZERS, JOINT PRODUCTION PROJECTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE
OF THE REGION, THE CREATION OF LA-OWNED MULTINATIONAL
CORPORATIONS, AND "ABOVE ALL THE RECENT PROPOSAL FOR A
SISTEMA DE INFORMACION LATINOAMERICANO (SIFA)."
ELABORATING ON THIS LAST ITEM, MONCAYO SAID THAT SIFA
WILL BE A BANK OF DATA OF INTEREST TO THE 25 MEMBER
NATIONS OF SELA AND THAT IT WILL EXTEND ITS OPERATIONS
TO THE PRODUCTION OF MOVIES AND RADIO AND TELEVISION
PROGRAMS IN ORDER "LATINAMERICANIZE" INFORMATION.
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